

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5 are presented for continued prosecution. Claims amendments have not been made at this time.

B. The Office Action

Claims 1, 2 and 5 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Prem (U.S. 5,802,975) in view of Gayle (U.S. 6,401,613). Claims 3 and 4 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Prem in view of Gayle and Guaraldi (U.S. 5,241,905).

In the prior amendment dated May 10, 2007, Applicant argued, among other things, that Prem does not teach or suggest a slidably mounted mobile cylinder.

On page 3 of the current Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that Prem does not teach or suggest a slidably mounted mobile cylinder. However, the Examiner performed a further prior art search and cited Gayle to teach a print cylinder composed of "shaft 10", "slidably mounted mobile cylinder, 50", and "print sleeve, 52". The Examiner stated that it would have been obvious to modify Prem to include the mobile cylinder of Gayle.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's reading of Gayle and believes that the claimed invention is not obvious for at least the following reasons.

1. Gayle does not teach or suggest a fixed shaft on which there is a slidably mounted mobile cylinder

Claims 1 and 5 recite a printing machine which includes a mobile cylinder that is slidably mounted on a fixed shaft. As illustrated, for example, in Figs. 1 and 6 of the application, mobile cylinder M can slide from a first position on fixed shaft F depicted in Fig. 1, to a second position on fixed shaft F depicted in Fig. 6. The second position depicted in Fig. 6 shows that the operator can manually remove sleeve S, because mobile cylinder M carrying sleeve S has slidably moved toward the operator where it can be reached. The slidable movement of mobile cylinder M is further described in pars. 1 and 2 on page 2 of the application.

In paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Gayle teaches "shaft 10" on which there is a "slidably mounted mobile cylinder, 50". Respectfully, each of these two elements of Gayle has been misidentified by the Examiner.

First, element 10 of Gayle is not a shaft as identified by the Examiner, instead, it is a fixed print cylinder (see Figure 4 and col. 2, line 57 of Gayle). The shaft of Gayle is element 12, not 10 (see Figure 4 and col. 1, line 61 of Gayle).

Second, element 50 of Gayle is not a slidably mounted mobile cylinder as identified by the Examiner, instead, it is a bridge or inner sleeve of a two part sleeve assembly composed of inner sleeve 50 and outer sleeve 52 (see Figure 4, col. 2, lines 58-67 and col. 4, lines 9-12). Gayle does not include a slidable print cylinder.

Gayle does not teach or suggest a fixed shaft on which there is a slidably mounted mobile cylinder. Rather, Gayle teaches shaft 12, fixed cylinder 10, and slidable sleeves 50, 52. Thus, inner and outer sleeves 50, 52 of Gayle are the slidable elements, not the cylinder.

This distinction between Gayle and the claimed invention is important. As explained above, the slidable mobile cylinder of the claimed invention can move from a position within the printing machine to a position wherein an operator can manually remove sleeve. This provides an advantage over conventional printing machines such as Gayle, because an operator of the machine of Gayle cannot easily reach the sleeve on the cylinder, because the cylinder and the sleeve are fixed within the machine and cannot be reached by an operator (see paragraph 4 on page 1 to paragraph 1 on page 2 of the present application).

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Gayle does not teach or suggest a mobile cylinder that is slidably mounted on a fixed shaft as recited in claims 1 and 5. As a result, it is believed that the claimed invention would not be obvious based on the combination of Gayle, Prem, and the knowledge of those in the art.

2. Rejections including Guaraldi

Claims 3 and 4 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Prem in view of Gayle and Guaraldi.

Claims 3 and 4 ultimately depend upon claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that Guaraldi does not cure the deficiencies of Gayle and Prem with regard to claims 1 and 5 as argued above. It is therefore believed that all the claims are patentable over the cited references taken alone or in combination.

C. Timeliness of Response

The 3-month period to respond to the Office Action expired on November 3, 2007. However, since November 3, 2007 was a Saturday, the 3-month period was extended until today, Monday, November 5, 2007. This response is therefore being filed within 3 months from the mailing date of the Office Action.

D. Fees

This Response is being filed within the shortened statutory period for reply. No fee is believed to be due. If, on the other hand, it is determined that fees are due or any overpayment has been made, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit such sum to Deposit Account No. 02-2275. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated therewith is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

E. Conclusion

In view of the arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that each and every one of the matters raised by the Examiner has been addressed by the present amendment and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By: 

Timothy D. Meade
Registration No. 55,449

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP
475 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016
Phone: 212-661-8000
Fax: 212-661-8002

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this document is being electronically transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents via EFS-Web on November 5, 2007.

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By: 

Timothy D. Meade